

376th civil engineers keep jobs flowing

by Chief Master Sgt. Gary Gentz

376th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

When you're forward deployed, water is something you can't do without. That's why the 376th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron walks on water when it comes to providing this critical service at their forward deployed location.

The squadron members from Ramstein Air Base maintain crucial water, waste-water systems, interior plumbing fixtures and exterior distribution lines. In addition, they maintain 20 latrines, 10 shower facilities, four self-help laundries, the dining hall, two hospitals, grease traps at food facilities, sinks and drainage systems.

"Presently, we're preparing the base for winter by burying approximately 2,000 feet of exposed water and waste-water lines," said Master Sgt. Timothy Shearer, 376th ECES utilities system superintendent. "These lines would freeze if left exposed."

With freezing temperatures making the ground hard as granite, the seven-person team works 12-hour shifts, seven days a week to accomplish this mostly by hand. The project is scheduled for completion by Nov. 15.

"It's very strenuous work," Shearer said. "But a hot shower, regardless of the austere conditions, is directly linked to quality of life and mission effectiveness of people assigned here."



U.S. Air Force photo by Chief Master Sgt. Gary Gentz

Senior Airman Stephanie McFatter, 376th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron utilities systems journeyman, and Staff Sgt. Thomas Vansickle, 376th ECES liquid fuels journeyman, configure water lines to be buried under ground to prevent freezing at a forward deployed location.

The team also adds chlorine to the water used at the dining facility, Shearer said. This ensures fruits, vegetables and dishes washed at the facility are disinfected properly.

The 376th ECES also continuously upgrades and improves the entire system to more effectively

See WATER, Page 8

Base beautification

KMC prepares for fall cleanup days Thursday, Nov. 15



by Master Sgt. William Kendall

786th Civil Engineer Squadron

The KMC sweeps into fall with cleanup days scheduled for Thursday and Nov. 15. KMC leadership hopes all members use this time to help improve each base's appearance.

Noon Thursday begins with a focus in military family housing areas throughout the KMC.

Housing leaders are responsible to ensure occupants conduct a thorough clean-up of their facilities.

In housing, the area of responsibility extends 50 feet in all directions of buildings. If building areas overlap with one another, then the overlapped area is a shared responsibility.

Housing and building leaders may obtain biodegradable bags and yard tools at the military family housing U-Fix-It and self-help stores located at Ramstein, Vogelweh, Landstuhl and Sembach.

Cleanup efforts shift to operational work

areas Nov. 15. KMC facility managers should create teams to clean the outside of all their facilities.

As a reminder, the area of responsibility for industrial and office buildings extends 100 feet in all directions and includes litter pick-up, weed removal, bush trimming, leaf raking and window washing.

Facility managers are also responsible for interior cleanup to include carpet cleaning, replacing defective light bulbs, conducting safety inspections and submitting requests for any work requiring civil engineering execution.

Base self-help centers stock biodegradable garbage bags, grass seed and hand tools to include weed eaters, hedge trimmers, power washers, rakes and shovels.

For maximum success during this KMC-wide effort, follow these guidelines:

- Place weeds, grass and leaves in biodegradable

See CLEANUP, Page 8

ROLE MODELS: Chief master sergeant discusses how role models influence development of every servicemember

by Chief Master Sgt. Norm Thierolf
U.S. Air Forces in Europe Command Section
Information Management chief

What happened to all of the role models?

When I was coming up through the ranks as an airman and junior NCO, I would look up to those NCOs, senior NCOs, chiefs and officer leaders in my organization as role models.

It may have been that supervisor who was sharp as a tack, or maybe the first sergeant who knew how to take care of the airmen.

It may have been even bigger than that ... the command chief master sergeant or the wing commander. Role models were everywhere when I was a young airman.

What I learned as I've progressed through the ranks is, as you become a senior NCO, you become part of the senior leadership in an

organization and therefore, become a role model for others.

As part of senior leadership, I don't look to the first sergeant as a role model for me any-

more. I want him or her to be a role model for our junior folks, just like I need to be.

Now don't get me wrong, there are several chiefs out there I look to for support. As a brand new chief master sergeant, I need them to set an example and define what I need to do to represent my airmen, unit and myself properly and effectively.

So, who are my role models?

Today most of my role models are those junior to me who are out there making sacrifices, leading by example and taking the hard tasks no one else wants.

The people in the three work centers who work for me are role models. Day in and day out they get pulled, tugged and tasked from

multiple directions, adjust on the fly and press on. They inspire me to work harder each and every day.

The security forces members and ready airmen who stand out in the cold, rain, snow and dark to keep our base safe are my role models. They're out there making a sacrifice so I can do my job inside an office. I try to give it my all and do the best I can each and every day, because they deserve that effort from me.

There are senior NCOs and NCOs in the KMC I look to as role models ... the staff of the First Term Airmen Center are role models. They inspire me to be my sharpest and set the best example I can.

So, there it is. Don't think a role model has to be someone who is more senior or experienced than you. Role models should be people who inspire you to do better and help you set higher standards and goals you want to emulate.

There are great role models out there everywhere you look ... they just might be more junior than you expect.

Chief's Corner



COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

Issue:

I'm writing in regard to parking when events are held at Ramstein High School. People park along both sides of the road, in front of the dumpsters, over the no-parking stripes and block the view of oncoming traffic on the corners. Some even block residents into their own spaces by parking across them.

Last weekend, I saw a child nearly get hit at the crosswalk. Someone is going to be seriously injured if this situation is allowed to continue. Why can't we have a mandatory park and ride system for the games so housing residents won't be put in danger or blocked into their spaces?

Response:

Thank you for your concern about the parking shortfall at Ramstein High School. We are developing both short-term and long-term solutions to this

problem. In the near term, we are reminding all parents and visitors to pay close attention to pedestrian crossings and children in the area, to use legal parking spaces and carpool to the event if possible. I'm asking building and area leaders to be proactive in enforcing ticket write-ups for illegal parking and security forces to increase traffic enforcement during these events.

For the long-term, the Traffic Control Group will conduct a review of all special events, to include shuttle service to and from the high school, construction of temporary or permanent parking nearer the high school and relocation of the sports fields away from the housing area. These and other options will be evaluated based on safety, security, funding and space to ensure an optimal solution to this problem.

Thanks for your interest in the safety of our children and all the personnel living in and visiting the KMC.



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. John Snow

Col. Erwin F. Lessel III, 86th Airlift Wing commander, goes over flight plans with Maj. Brian Hill, 86th AW executive officer and C-130 Hercules pilot, prior to departure Nov. 1.

The Action Line is a way to get answers to your questions and concerns about life in the KMC. Use your chain of command before submitting your comments. Only those Action Lines that are judged to be genuinely applicable across the community will be addressed in the Kaiserslautern American. Send e-mails to Action.Line@ramstein.af.mil. Please include name, address (or workplace) and phone number.



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The KA staff encourages reader comments. The office is located at Ramstein Air Base, Building 2319. The phone number is 480-6162.

Mailing address is:
86th AW/PA,
Unit 3200 Box 330
APO AE 09094-5000

The e-mail address for story ideas, articles, etc. is ka@ramstein.af.mil. The fax number is 480-9611. For information on how to place an advertisement in the newspaper, call the KA Ad Agency at 0631-90254.

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KMC welcomes newest chief master sergeants

The Air Force Personnel Center recently announced the selection of 30 new KMC chief master sergeants. Below are the senior master sergeants selected for promotion.

Alexander, Vincent
Ayers, Edwin B.
Bedford, Steven C.
Deforrest, Jack III
Dossey, James P.
Faulkner, Tyrone
Fleishman, Patrick
Guertin, James B.
Hentz, Fitzgerald
Herrick, Steven R.
Holmstrom, Kevin E.
Johnson, Keith P.
Johnson, Raymond V.
Johnson, Wesley J.
Langer, Joseph E.
Lanuzga, Eduardo R.
Lechner, Rick A.
Lee Jacob, R. Jr



Maxwell, Gary
Moran, Daniel S.
Nelson, Clint J.
Norsworthy, Michael
Poulos, Demetrius G.
Ramsey, Tracy L.
Ricker, Frederick S.
Roshitsh, Brian M.
Smith, Larry L.
Thompson, Eric W.
Western, Kenneth
Willis, Jay E.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Justin Pyle

Off we go

Gen. Gregory S. Martin, commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, and Lt. Col. John Nunez, 76th Airlift Squadron, discuss ground safety procedures of the C-20H aircraft. The 86th Airlift Wing recently replaced the C-20A with the C-20H to fulfill the distinguished visitor airlift mission for U.S. European Command. The new model has the latest safety technology, including terminal collision avoidance, ground proximity warning and global positioning systems for long-range flights. With more than 3,000 miles of range, the aircraft can fly non-stop from Europe to the U.S. mainland.



Spc. Jeneen Mary Saucedo

Unit: Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, B Company

Time in service: Three years

Duty title: LRMC awards specialist

How do your day-to-day duties contribute to the mission successes of the KMC? I ensure that deserving soldiers are rewarded for their hard work before departing LRMC as well as handling other awards and ceremonies.

Hometown: San Bernardino County, Calif.

Hobbies: I'm addicted to reading, drawing and traveling to new places.

If you could change one thing about the Army, what would it be? Talent, training, money and resources should be used more efficiently.

Why did you enlist in the Army? I think everyone should, at some point in their life, take the opportunity to serve their country.

What has been your best experience in the Army? My family has never set foot outside California, I have had awesome opportunities.



Airman 1st Class Crystal Grigsby

Unit: 86th Medical Support Squadron

Time in service: Two years

Duty title: Medical laboratory apprentice

How do your day-to-day duties contribute to the mission successes of the KMC? I support physicians by performing lab tests and reporting results on KMC servicemembers, civilians and family members. This ensures people stay healthy and are able to complete their mission.

Hometown: Hendersonville, N.C.

Hobbies: Drawing, art, soccer and traveling Europe.

If you could change one thing about the Air Force, what would it be? I would give troops more freedom to choose their base assignments.

Why did you enlist in the Air Force? For education and job experience.

What has been your best experience in the Air Force? Having the opportunity to travel to Europe.

PROMOTION FITNESS EXAMINATION BRIEFS

Senior master sergeant

Senior master sergeants perform as superintendents or managers. Broad management skills are essential to exercise the responsibilities of the higher leadership positions in which senior master sergeants serve. The 9-skill level "superintendent" is awarded when senior master ser-

geants sew on E-8. Senior master sergeants should continue their professional development to become viable candidates for unique assignment opportunities and future promotion selection consideration to chief master sergeant. The official term of address is senior master sergeant or sergeant.

1ST SERGEANT TIP OF THE WEEK



Hair accessories for women

Women must wear plain and conservative pins, combs, headbands, elastic bands and barrettes similar to the individual's hair color to keep hair in place. *Reference: AFI 36-2903, Table 1.4*

Army leaders honor veterans' diligence

by Thomas White

Secretary of the Army, and
Gen. Eric Shinseki
Army Chief of Staff

On Veterans' Day, we pay tribute to the American men and women who have served in our nation's armed forces. Through their sacrifices, they have purchased for us the privileges of freedom, democracy and unmatched opportunity that we enjoy in the United States today. They have set the conditions for the United States' place as global leader, with the world's strongest economy, and the most respected and feared military in the world.

As we celebrate the contributions of our veterans, we also take this opportunity to salute and to honor you, the soldiers serving in the Army today. Your determination and readiness to go where you are needed whenever you are called are potent symbols of liberty, justice and hope for people the world over.

Today, soldiers build upon the 227-year legacy established by veterans who have gone before. From the first

battle of the American Revolution to our ongoing war against terrorism, in conflicts around the globe and in humanitarian missions at home and abroad that have saved countless lives, soldiers provided the sword and shield that protects our Nation. And they are doing so today – more than 190,000 soldiers deployed and forward stationed in 120 countries around the world.

You voluntarily forego comfort and wealth, willingly facing hardships and deployments away from family and loved ones. Sometimes you confront danger and face death in defending the nation's security. To all of you on point for the nation, whether far from home or here in the United States, thank you for your contributions and your countless sacrifices. It is an honor to serve with you.

On Nov. 11, a day of reflection and tribute, we salute you, and we pledge to you our tireless efforts to ensure the Army remains the world's preeminent warfighting land force – the most esteemed institution in the nation and the most respected Army in the world.

EUCOM commander pays tribute to veterans

by Gen. Joseph Ralston

Commander, U.S. European Command

Today, we pause to pay a special tribute to the veterans of our armed forces. Originally, Nov. 11 was the day we commemorated the signing of the Armistice ending World War I, and its observance honored those who served in the "war to end all wars." But, World War I was not the end.

Our current war on terrorism reminds us that our liberty must be constantly defended – freedom is never free. From Belleau Wood to the barren hilltops of Roberts Ridge, Americans have willingly answered the nation's call to duty, no matter what the cost. Their selfless service ensures that all Americans may enjoy the liberties they so bravely defended.

Now, the day that was originally intended to honor the veterans

of the First World War has become a day to celebrate all of the men and women who have so proudly and valiantly served this great nation. Take time to reflect on the value of their contributions to the freedom we enjoy today.

Remembering their long legacy of devotion and sacrifice makes us proud to join their ranks. Sharing a common heritage with the veterans who served before them, the soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines of U.S. European Command represent the ideals our nation was founded upon.

Take pride in your service and the legacy you will leave for the next generation of Americans. Just as our veterans have given so much for us, our service to America is the guarantee to future generations that our nation will continue to be a land of liberty. So, on this Veterans' Day, Dede and I want to thank you for your commitment to our nation.



General
Ralston

USAFE commander thanks, honors America's unsung heroes

by Gen. Gregory S. Martin

Commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe

On Veterans' Day, we pause to acknowledge and honor America's heroes – the men and women who have worn the uniform in defense of our country. This year, in every small town and every big city across our broad nation, America will pause to thank those who served. Our nation is powerful, prosperous and free – due in no small part to America's sons and daughters who answered the call to serve.

During this day, we stand united while engaging an unconventional enemy threatening our

freedoms. If history has taught us anything, it's that America will bear any hardship, overcome any obstacle or conquer any foe to preserve our way of life and help our allies preserve the freedoms for which they have fought hard.

Whether in the skies over Bosnia, in the waters of the Persian Gulf or in the deserts of Afghanistan, America's military stands tall with its coalition partners in defense of freedom, doing the hard and dangerous work that must be done to bring peace and stability to a troubled world.

As I travel and talk with the men and women



General
Martin

in USAFE, I've been in awe of your dedication, professionalism, focus and realization of the importance of our duty. It's that motivation and optimism that fuels our ability to meet a most demanding mission.

This Veterans' Day, please join me in saluting America's military veterans and thanking them for their service. To the warrior airmen of USAFE, I can't thank you enough for your dedicated service

and sacrifice ... you, too, are the veterans being saluted this day, and you deserve our greatest respect! God bless you and God bless America.

America remembers professionalism, dedication of nation's veterans

by Col. Erwin F. Lessel III

86th Airlift Wing commander

Our nation pauses on Veterans' Day to honor those servicemembers who have given their time, skills and sometimes their lives for something all Americans enjoy - freedom.

We can no longer take security and freedom for granted, especially since the World Trade Center and Pentagon terrorist attacks last year. These events forever changed us as

Americans and made us realize how important our military is to the War on Terrorism and to the protection of our country and our allies.

As we move forward in the new century, the world faces many challenges. These challenges demand a strong, flexible military force that's ready to deploy and deter aggression at a moment's notice. We have that force, secured by the veterans who came before us.

This force within the KMC

includes many military members who are everyday heroes performing above and beyond the call of duty. As I visit the various units, I meet determined people exhibiting endless drive, professionalism and technical expertise. I'm proud of what our people are doing, and so is our country. I'm grateful for what our veterans have done – their actions and sacrifices have secured a place in history for the freedoms we enjoy today.

I must also thank and remember our military family members and German partners for their continued support and encouragement. Without their efforts, we would not be the great military force we are today.

On this Veterans' Day, let us remember those who have served and gone before us. Perhaps some day, our service and sacrifices will also be remembered by future generations.

Election sets course, 2002 votes are in

by Heather Miller

86th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Our democracy thrived once again Tuesday.

Citizens of many countries were threatened with violence and fatally injured as they went to the polls to cast their votes in previous months.

Although Americans were not directly threatened with violence as they cast their votes this year, turnout was low and voter apathy was ever so present.

According to Maj. Ryan Traver, the KMC Voting Assistance officer, 19 percent of Ramstein Air Base servicemembers requested an absentee ballot through the KMC voting program.

The percentage of family members and Department of Defense civilian employees who requested an absentee ballot could not be estimated.

Nonetheless, about 40 percent of the American population elected 435 members of the House of Representatives, 36 state governors, 34 U.S. senators, many local officials and decided many other state and local issues Tuesday.

Unless unusual circumstances arise, the newly elected members of the House serve a two-year term and are up for re-election in 2004.

The 34 U.S. senators serve a six-year term and the governors, 21 of which are brand new, serve a four-year term. The Republican party will have the majority in the 108th Congress.

To find out more about your state's election results visit the Federal Elections Commission at <http://www.fec.gov> or the Federal Voting Assistance Program at <http://www.fvap.org>.

KMC benefits from campaign

by 1st Lt. Phillip Ulmer

86th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The Combined Federal Campaign – Overseas offers those stationed overseas a unique opportunity to see the money they contribute working in their community.

Last year, organizations within the KMC received more than \$24,000 through contributions to the campaign. These funds continue to assist family support and youth programs throughout the community.

Created to address a variety of local needs, family support and youth programs can vary from providing daycare and emergency assistance to supporting sports and recreational activities.

According to Vince Halverson, the Ramstein Family Support Flight chief, the money goes directly to the people in the KMC who need it.

"We use the money primarily for emergency situations and quality of life issues," he said. "We also assist military families in crisis who need food and childcare."

Last year, a military family in Vogelweh housing lost nearly everything due to a fire. "Together with the Air Force Aid Society, we were able to assist the family in getting back on their feet," he said.

Halverson said the most recent example of how CFC money helps the community is one of the 86th Airlift Wing's geographically separated units, Chievres, Belgium.

"We used about \$1,500 to establish a loan locker for the families there who are PCSing in and out," said Halverson.

Families were traveling from Chievres to Mons, Belgium to get needed loaner items. This could mean a travel time of more than an hour during some situations, with no guarantee the item would be available when they arrived. Add that to the transportation issues associated with newly arriving personnel and establishing a small loan locker just made sense.

The KMC youth programs also benefit from CFC contributions. "The money we receive goes to programs for children," said Mary Neher, 86th Services Squadron Resource Management Flight chief. "We divide the funds equally between the Sembach, Vogelweh and Ramstein Youth Centers. This allows children throughout the community to benefit from the contributions."

"The centers then use the money to buy everything from board games to puzzles. We use the money for the programs that don't charge fees. These are open recreation areas where the kids can just come in and play," she said.

The KMC CFC drive is scheduled to wrap up Nov. 15, but progress still needs to be made.

"We've received just above \$516,000 so far," said Master Sgt. Luis Nordlund, wing project officer for the CFC. "This is just above the 50 percent mark for our community goal."

People interested in contributing to family support and youth programs in the KMC can do so by entering "FSYP" in the four-digit agency code section of the pledge card. For more information, call Capt. Steven Baker at 480-3701 or Nordlund at 480-1388.



Quick fix

German contract workers add the finishing touches to Phase I of the Ramstein Base Exchange parking lot construction project Tuesday. The completion of Phase I is on schedule. Phase II starts Monday and will be finished by Thanksgiving, just in time for holiday shopping.

Eyes, ears help stop terrorism

by 2nd Lt. Tracy Giles

U.S. Air Forces in Europe Public Affairs

You're having a conversation with a group of people and you hear something that you perceive to be highly unusual or threatening or you see a car parked near the base that doesn't belong. You get the feeling that something isn't quite right.

Don't hesitate to talk. Let security forces or Air Force Office of Special Investigations know. Your discerning eyes and intent listening skills are crucial to the successful apprehension of terrorists and the prevention of future terrorist attacks.

"World events make it clear that it is imperative, more than it has ever been, for each one of us to guard against complacency and remember that we are under the constant threat of terrorism," said Col. John Salley, U.S. Air Forces in Europe Security Forces director.

"Security forces and AFOSI agents work diligently everyday to ensure our security and safety. They cannot accomplish this without the efforts and keen sense of awareness from you and your family," said Salley. "It is the responsibility of each one of us to ensure we live in a secure environment."

Some specific things you can do to fulfill your responsibility to force protection:

- Report anything suspicious or out of the ordinary to security forces or AFOSI.
- Always remember to use your individual protection measures, such as varying your travel routines to make yourself less predictable.
- Implement sound security practices like securing personal items and locking your car when unattended, inspect your car for signs of

tampering prior to travel and lock the house when you leave.

- Participate in or establish watch program in your community housing areas.
- Maintain situational awareness by remaining alert and knowing your surroundings, including your housing area and neighbors if in the local community.
- Make sure you know the emergency services (police, fire department, ambulance) phone numbers for the country you are in.

In addition to this, all active-duty members, Department of Defense civilians, and their family members, 14 years and older, are required to receive antiterrorism/force protection level I briefing prior to permanent change of station travel to an overseas location said Salley.

According to the colonel, this training focuses on the local threat environment in the area you are to be stationed and is then conducted on an annual basis while members are stationed overseas. If you have not received your training, please contact your installation AT/FP officer.

"Throughout the command we will continue conducting installation entry control procedures, large vehicle searches, random vehicle inspections and antiterrorism measures, and our threat dissemination process to serve as a deterrent and appear less predictable to the potential terrorist," said Salley.

"We understand that the lines and additional security checks can be frustrating. Your patience and understanding for the important job our security forces do is greatly appreciated," he added. "Our efforts combined with your help are crucial to the success of our war against terrorism and our ability to ensure your safety."

New digital learning, training center open for classwork use

by Barbara Toner

415th Base Support Battalion

The Distributed Learning System Digital Training Facility on Pulaski Barracks is now open for walk-in computer classwork and instructor-led courses.

The Distributed Learning System project manager oversees 213 Digital Training Facilities worldwide providing standardized training to individual soldiers and their units.

"Digital Training Facilities are an enabler in Army transformation providing a convenient location for mission critical, standardized training and improved soldier well-being by reducing time away from the unit and family," said Army Col. Sharon Holmes, Distributed Learning System project manager.

The KMC facility has three classrooms, each with 16 computers for student use, said Eric Craven, Digital Training Facility manager.

The facility will have video conferencing capability, said Craven. Meanwhile people can come and use the rooms for Microsoft Certification training. Also, units needing a room for instructor-led computer-based courses are also welcome.

For information on hours of operation and other services, call Craven at 489-8482.



CLEANUP from Page 1

bags at curbside, keeping them away from dumpsters. Do not put dirt, rocks or refuse in recycle bags or they will not be picked up.

• Branches and limbs should be placed in two separate piles at the curb's edge. One pile for branches up to four inches in diameter and another for larger ones.

• Recyclable items (batteries, tires, metal, paper, glass, etc.) should be taken to the recycling center or put in the proper recycling container. Larger trash items should be picked up with regularly scheduled bulk trash pickup in your area.

• The 786th Civil Engineer Squadron picks up bags at curbside each day between noon and 5:30 p.m. Piles of branches are hauled away or mulched into a nearby forested area.

Additional items facility managers and building leaders should check are:

- Cigarette butt cans are centrally located in the rear of the facility and painted brown.
- Grass and weeds are removed from cracks in curbs, sidewalks, parking lots, bushes and shrubs.
- Bushes and shrubs are well maintained and below five feet.
- Wooden pallets, 55-gallon drums and similar items are removed and properly disposed.
- Trash and other debris is removed from parking lots.
- The façade of the building is well kept and absent of graffiti or other unattractive or unapproved signs.

For more information or assistance requests, call 480-5852 at Ramstein, 496-6373 at Sembach or 489-6621 for other areas in the KMC.

WATER from Page 1

use water resources, said Staff Sgt. Craig Hunter, 376th ECES utilities system journeyman.

"We are installing valves on the latrines to minimize water loss to showers and laundry facilities," Hunter explained. "People will be able to take hot showers and not notice a fluctuation when water is used elsewhere simultaneously."

The team not only keeps water flowing in, they're also tasked with the outflow of water as well.

"We maintain the entire sewage system to include flushing the sewage lines to keep them operating and cleaning man holes to ensure sewage stoppages are kept to a minimum," Hunter said. "In the close confines of our operation here, sewer overflow could cause sanitary and health problems. Our goal is to ensure emergencies don't happen. This is why we perform maintenance on a daily basis."

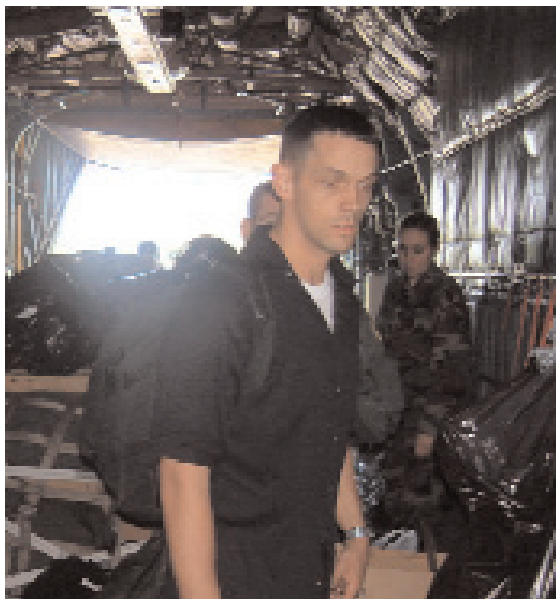
Although the job is tough, Senior Airman Stephanie McFatter, a squadron utilities systems journeyman, said it's rewarding.

"I like the fact that I'm maintaining, repairing and replacing vital water and waste-water systems in a contingency environment," she said. "I like applying my knowledge in bare-base conditions ensuring the entire spectrum of water and waste-water systems upkeep are performed. This is exactly what I've been trained for since I joined the Air Force."

Shearer is proud of what the team is doing.

"The staggering amount of work is performed by a small team with limited supplies. The team worked extremely hard at operating, maintaining, repairing and winterizing our entire water and waste-water distributing and treatment process," the master sergeant said. "These airmen performed flawlessly since they arrived Oct. 8, and I'm proud of what they've accomplished here."

37th AS completes noncombatant evacuation in Central African Republic



U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. Bill Ward

Evacuees prepare to flee the Central African Republic Nov. 2 on an 86th Airlift Wing C-130 Hercules due to unrest.

by Airman 1st Class Robyn Dorocak
Kaiserslautern American

The 37th Airlift Squadron completed a non-combatant evacuation operation of people landlocked in Bangui, Africa, Saturday.

The 20-person team from the 86th Airlift Wing was tasked by the U.S. European Command to evacuate 31 people due to the recent civil unrest developing in the Central African Republic.

A European Security Assessment Team flew into the area with the 37th AS to review the security for Americans in the country and helped develop the air evacuation process.

"The ESAT team and the U.S. Embassy were our liaisons for the mission," said Maj. Bill Ward, 37th AS assistant operations officer. "They helped direct us through the successful engine-running upload of the evacuees. With their assistance we had people on board and were

back in the sky within 15 minutes of landing."

Ward said there was plenty of support from local Libyans, Djibouti, rebels and presidential guards assisting in the security of the airfield. In addition, the 786th Security Forces Squadron's Raven forces supported the Ramstein aircrew.

"Anywhere we go, we are responsible for the protection of the aircraft and crew," said Staff Sgt. Benny Tammelin, 786th SFS Raven coordinator. "When we landed to load the evacuees, we had a critical role in maintaining the perimeter of the aircraft and the safety of the people."

Americans were warned Oct. 28 by the State Department to defer travel to the Central African Republic. Since then, the 86th AW fulfilled their designated European Command role.

"Our responsibility was to support through airlift and complete this mission – we did that," said Ward. "We accomplished the first evacuation that has risen from this scenario. We gained knowledge, while having a real-world benefit."

Officials remind shoppers of customs shipping standards

by Robert Szostek
*U.S. European Command
Customs Public Affairs Office*

Some people have a way of buying the wrong holiday presents. This is usually a matter of taste, but many items available in Europe that make good holiday presents violate customs rules.

Some items are banned from import to the United States and other items may be carried in baggage, but not mailed. Violations of customs, agriculture or postal regulations can lead to hefty fines and confiscation of the goods.

Meat and meat products are one big problem.

"European delicacies like French pâté, German wurst, Spanish chorizo salami and Italian ham are here for the buying and much sought-after in the States," said Delcio Rivera, Department of Agriculture adviser. "Unfortunately they can also carry the spores of Foot and Mouth Disease, a virulent livestock ailment eradicated in the United States."

These products, all canned meats and even soup mixes containing meat are therefore banned. Fresh fruits and vegetables are also prohibited because they could harbor pests like the Mediterranean fruit fly.

The threat to U.S. agriculture is



Courtesy photo

Christmas markets have many gift items, however, people must ensure their purchases can be shipped to the States under U.S. customs laws.

so great that the USDA fines people who mail or take banned foods to the States up to \$250. Criminal action for deliberate cases of smuggling can end in a \$5,000 fine and a year in jail.

Wildlife products also present problems. Buying ivory as a gift is a bad idea, say customs officials.

"Only ivory pieces previously registered with the U.S. Customs Service may be imported," said William Johnson, deputy director of the European Command's Customs Executive Agency.

Whale teeth carvings known as

netsuke or scrimshaw are also prohibited from import. When buying furs, shoppers should insist on a certificate of origin stating the animal's scientific name to avoid buying prohibited endangered species products. The movement of caviar is also restricted and travelers are allowed to have only 250 grams of these endangered sturgeon eggs with them when they cross international boundaries.

Another purchase to avoid is the oriental water pipe. Known as hookahs, chillums or bongs, these pipes can be a nice mantelpiece. However, the U.S. Customs Service

sees them as drug paraphernalia so they cannot be imported. Cuban rum and cigars are also often available overseas but prohibited from import stateside because of economic sanctions.

Europe boasts many fine wines and spirits. The Europeans even produce liquor-filled candies that make original Christmas gifts.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Postal Service bans all liquor from being mailed, even if it is inside a piece of candy. However, customs allows travelers over 21 to import one liter of duty-free liquor. If you plan on taking more than one liter of beer or wine stateside as gifts, the federal taxes and duties are currently low enough to make it worthwhile. However, state laws must also be met which can add to the cost. Taxes on distilled spirits like Scotch whiskey are generally considered high.

Counterfeits of well-known trademarked items are also banned from the mail. Many producers of designer items from shoes and clothing to perfumes, watches or jewelry have registered their trademarks with customs that inspect mail for faked products.

Military customs offices can offer more advice on these and other holiday shipping questions. You can also find information on the Internet at <http://www.customs.gov/travel/internat.htm>.



U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Phillip Ulmer

Prepared for inspection

Airman 1st Class Richard Warren, 568th Security Forces Squadron B-Flight, inspects a vehicle at the Ramstein East Gate as part of random anti-terrorism measures. When vehicles are identified to pull over for an inspection, security forces members ask drivers to be patient and understanding so they can get people back on the road as soon as possible.

Cub Scouts

Cub Scout Pack 69 is looking for boys in grades 1 to 5. Adults wanting to volunteer can visit www.pack69ingermany.com or call Mike Krohne at 0631-534-4846.

Say It In German

The Ramstein Family Support Center offers a "Say It In German" class 6 p.m. Monday and Wednesday in Bldg. 2120, Room 107. This class introduces participants to basic words and phrases in German. To register, call 480-5100 or 06371-47-5100.

TOP 3 party

The TOP 3 hosts a party for all junior-enlisted members assigned to Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday at Sembach in the former Officers' Club.

Toastmasters meetings

The Eifel Toastmasters Club meets 10:30 a.m. to noon the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, except holiday weekends, at the Spangdahlem Chapel Annex.

There is an Advanced Toastmasters Club forming. The Club is specifically geared for members who are competent Toastmasters,

advanced Toastmasters or distinguished Toastmasters. They meet monthly with rotations between Kaiserslautern, Frankfurt, Wiesbaden and Heidelberg.

A new Toastmasters Club at Panzer Kaserne in Kaiserslautern meets noon to 1 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month in Bldg. 3003, second floor conference room.

For details, call Ralph Jones at 06371-917570 or e-mail ralphj@bunt.com.

Legal office hours change

The 86th Airlift Wing Law Center is closed until 9 a.m. Wednesday mornings for training. For details, call 480-5911 or 06371-47-5911.

Commissary times

The Vogelweh Commissary is open during regular hours 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and early bird express shopping from 7 to 9 a.m. Monday.

The Sembach Commissary is closed Monday for Veterans' Day.

The Vogelweh and Ramstein commissaries are closed Nov. 28 for Thanksgiving.

MPF closes

All offices within the 86th Mission Support Squadron's Military Personnel Flight close 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays, for training and on-

going Air Force-directed data reconciliation cleanup.

TA limits

Use of tuition assistance for lower or lateral graduate programs in area studies is no longer authorized. Students presently enrolled in area studies graduate degree programs are allowed to complete program degree requirements and do not fall under the new policy.

This policy change is effective immediately. For more information, call Jannie Benson at 480-2032.

Course change

Senior NCO Correspondence Course 5 is deleted and is being replaced by Course 12. Anyone enrolled in Course 5 who has all materials may complete it.

Those who think they are enrolled, but have not received materials will be enrolled in Course 12. All who have been trying to enroll in Course 5 will be sent Course 12 when it becomes available. For details, call Jannie Benson at 480-2032.

Volunteer

The American Red Cross needs volunteers at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center youths 14 and older. There are special opportunities to meet school requirements. Visit the office in LRMC, Bldg. 3794 for an appointment and information or call 486-7298 or 06371-86-7298.

Compost bin pick up

The Kaiserslautern County changed the pick up of brown composting containers. Starting mid-November, any composting bin not properly sorted won't be picked-up.

A fine is issued for continued misuse of the composting containers.

For more information, go to http://www.kaiserslautern-kreis.de/buerger/muellertipp_englisch/main_e.html or call 480-5086.

Open house

The Kisling NCO Academy holds an open house 10:30 a.m. Nov. 15 with service dress for participants and uniform of the day for guests.

Holiday party

The 86th Airlift Wing sponsors a "Home for the Holidays" party 6 p.m. Dec. 12 at the Ramstein Officers' Club. For more information and tickets, see unit representatives.

Mutual funds

A mutual funds class is 6 p.m. Thursday in the Ramstein Family Support Center Bldg. 2120 Room 107. This program assists members in achieving financial security through planning for the long term. The class covers concepts such as diversification and introduces participants to the various types and uses of mutual funds. To register, call 480-5100 or 06371-47-5100.

Chievres loan locker receives KMC support

by Airman Nicole Spence
Kaiserslautern American

Military families moving to or from Chievres, Belgium, can now borrow items to make their transition easier.

The 309th Airlift Squadron in Chievres, an 86th Airlift Wing geographically separated unit, received support Nov. 1 through the Combined Federal Campaign from donations made by the KMC people.

"We are in a unique location supporting up to 100 Air Force military families," said Master Sgt. Jeff Neutzling, 309th AS first sergeant.

In the past, there was little loan locker material available, and families had to drive up to an hour away to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Mons, Belgium, to get loan locker items, Neutzling said.

Even then, "after going all the way to SHAPE, there wasn't a guarantee loan locker items would be available. The supplies are very limited," he said.

This is no longer the case after about \$1,500 was donated by the KMC through CFC to buy supplies for a Chievres loan locker, according to Vince Halverson, Ramstein Family Support Center director.

Things bought for the locker included: ironing boards, irons, silverware, cups, plates, coffee pots and other items needed for transitioning families.

The supplies increased the loan locker stock at least four times of what it previously was, making moving much easier for families, said Neutzling.

It can take up to 60 days to get a household set up when moving to Chievres, the first sergeant said.

So when a loan locker can provide basic items, families don't have to buy new or go without items until their household goods arrive.

"It's all about customer service. We try to do everything within our constraints to provide for their needs," said Neutzling.

These units may be far away, but they are never far from our hearts,



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Latonia Brown

Arlinda Ezell, Ramstein Loan Locker coordinator, and Deborah Booth, Relocation Program manager of the Ramstein Family Support Center, prepare goods for dedication to the Loan Locker Program at Geographically Separated Unit Chievres, Belgium.

Halverson said.

"This is one way we show (the GSUs) we haven't forgotten them,

and we feel good we're able to help them out no matter where they are," he said.

Dangerous dogs require special regulations

by Matthias L. Völker

86th Airlift Wing Judge Advocate
International

Rheinland-Pfalz made a Dangerous Dog Ordinance effective July 11, 2000, but a more detailed overview is needed for those who wish to own a dangerous dog.

The local Offices of Public Order at city and county levels are appointed to enforce the ordinance. It defines dangerous dogs as animals either:

- known to be vicious
- having indicated inclinations to attack game or livestock
- having attacked persons
- having shown unusual aggressiveness

Automatically included in the definition of dangerous dogs are Pit Bullterriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, Staffordshire Bullterriers and other dogs descended from one of these dogs.

Breeding, reproducing and trading dangerous dogs is prohibited. The dog may even be ordered to be neutered. Dogs may not be trained or bred to become dangerous dogs.

Permission is required to own a dangerous dog. The owner must justify the need to keep the dog, for example as a watchdog.

Furthermore, the owner must be at least 18 years old and personally qualified.

Personal qualification requires passing an aptitude test administered by a person or office certified by the State Veterinarian Chamber.

This test is only valid for five years and only connected to the dog that is tested together with the owner.

Certain criteria automatically disqualify people to own dangerous dogs:

- final conviction for at least one crime committed with premeditation or twice for crimes committed while drunk within the last five years
- addiction to alcohol or drugs or mental illness or impairment
- repeated violation of provisions

Dangerous dogs must be kept safely. They must be marked with an electronic chip applied by a veterinarian. The dog owner has to show proof thereof.

If the dog is lost or placed into someone else's custody for more than four weeks, the owner must notify the OPO.

In public areas, including common areas in multi-family housing, dangerous dogs must be on a leash and wear a muzzle.

Dog owners may ask for a muzzle exemption for their dogs, if the dog poses no danger to public security.

People walking dogs in public must be 18 years old or older, physically able to control the dog and not disqualified. A person may only walk one dog at a time.

The ordinance contains limited

"grandfather clauses" for current owners and breeders of dangerous dogs.

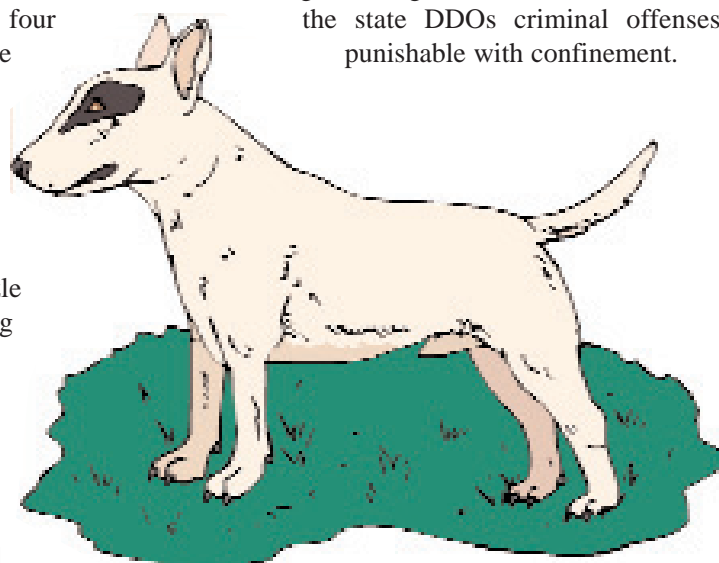
Breeders who had dangerous dogs before July 11, 2000 were permitted to continue breeding the dogs under certain limited restrictions.

Individuals who owned dangerous dogs on July 11, 2000 or after, have to register their dogs and have the dog marked with an electronic chip.

Furthermore, they also must show proof of passing the aptitude test. The OPO may prohibit keeping the dog if the owner is unreliable.

At least in the initial phase, the German police will assist officials in enforcing the law.

The German Federal Government plans to pass laws that prohibit the importation of dangerous dogs and to make violations of the state DDOs criminal offenses punishable with confinement.



Article 15s

DUI

An E-5 was charged under Article 111 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Punishment received was reduction to E-4, suspended forfeiture of \$100 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

Dereliction of duty, DUI

An E-3 was charged under Articles 92 and 111 for dereliction of duty and driving under the influence of alcohol.

Punishment received was reduction to E-2, suspended reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$150 pay per month for two months, 30 days restriction, 30 days extra duty and a reprimand.

Fleeing the accident scene

An individual claimed he was walking his dog when a vehicle struck him and his dog, then fled the scene.

He was transported to Kaiserslautern Medical Clinic for unknown injuries to his knee. The vehicle driver was apprehended, and his first sergeant was contacted.

Possible consequences

The commander has a variety of options including: taking no action, administrative action, nonjudicial punishment and court-martial.

The maximum punishment authorized in a court-martial for fleeing the scene of an accident is a bad conduct discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances and confinement for six months.

'Click It or Ticket' campaign returns for Veterans' Day

by Carolyn Jackson

U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

U.S. Army Europe's "Click It or Ticket" campaign will be repeated today to Monday during the Veterans' Day weekend, said USAREUR law enforcement officials.

The campaign gives drivers the choice of reducing their risk of fatal injury or being banned from driving.

"U.S. military police will enforce seatbelt compliance on military installations and in housing areas over the entire Veterans' Day weekend," said Lt. Col. Kathleen Doran, chief of Law Enforcement Operations at the USAREUR Office of the Provost Marshal.

"Our aim is to prevent the deaths and serious injuries that result from people not wearing their seatbelts."

We can expect to see seatbelt compliance checkpoints every time

there is a long weekend from now on, Doran added.

Vehicle operators who drive without wearing a seatbelt or who don't require passengers to wear seatbelts or restraining devices can be penalized.

A first-time offender's driving privileges are suspended for seven days.

A second-time offender loses driving privileges for 30 days and receives a letter of counseling.

A third-time offender loses his license for 180 days and repeated offenders can be banned from driving for up to one year.

Each offense also adds two traffic points to the offender's driving record. German authorities charge a 30 EUR fine for drivers who drive without a seatbelt.

Drivers are charged if any vehicle occupant is not wearing a seatbelt or proper restraining device such as a child's car seat.

UH-60A medevac team deploys to Kosovo

by Barbara Toner

415th Base Support Battalion

More than 40 members of the 236th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) headquartered at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center Heliport deployed Oct. 31 for a six-month deployment to Kosovo.

The unit's mission in Kosovo is evacuating injured soldiers and getting them quickly to the hospital at Camp Bondsteel. The crews also fly injured civilians involved in the area's peace-keeping efforts.

"It's a good training opportunity," said Army Capt. Michael Hughes, 236th Air Ambulance executive officer. "It's a good place for soldiers to exercise the skills of medical evacuation."

Six aircraft crews, including two UH-60A Blackhawk helicopter pilots, a medic, a crew chief and an 18-member support staff are going to replace their sister unit, the 45th Medical Company (AA), Ansbach. Both units fall under the 421st Evacuation Battalion, which is in charge of ground and air evacuation at corps level.

Warrant Officer Casey Nixon, a helicopter pilot with the company, sat in the Ramstein Passenger Terminal and waited for the call to board the C-17 bound for Kosovo.

He said he couldn't wait for the opportunity to

fly above the mountainous terrain of the country.

Nixon said Kosovo has fewer flight restrictions and, they are able to train in all conditions there.

"In Germany, there are restrictions," he said. "In Kosovo, those restrictions don't exist. We have more opportunities to get in the air and our flying times are increased."

The company has 15 medical evacuation crews in Landstuhl, so the mission in the KMC won't be compromised by this deployment, said Hughes.

Chief Warrant Officer Michael Rorhback, another pilot, also looks forward to the prospect of increased flying time and better training opportunities in Kosovo. However, his excitement was tempered by the prospect of leaving his wife and two children behind. With videoconferencing, e-mail and telephones, though, "we'll try to keep as close as we can," he said.

This is the unit's second deployment to Kosovo in the last two years. However, for most of the soldiers waiting at the passenger terminal, it's their first deployment there.

For one of the four women in the unit, Sgt.



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. John Snow

Members of the Army 236th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) from Landstuhl Regional Medical Center prepare a UH-60A Blackhawk helicopter in a C-17 Globemaster for deployment to Camp Bandstell, Kosovo, Oct. 31.

Tarsha Peele, an aircraft refueler, this is her first deployment. A single mother, she left her children in the care of her mother. She developed a positive attitude to her situation.

"It's always sad when you leave your family," she said. "However, I'm going to concentrate on my college while I am deployed and work toward my promotion."



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria Taylor

Ramstein 'roots' for trees

Kevin McCulloch and Jacob Fritter, Ramstein Intermediate School fifth graders, help plant a tree to celebrate National Arbor Day Oct. 30 near the Ramstein Community Center. Student council members took part in the National Arbor Day event to help their community replenish the environment with trees. Ramstein took part in the celebration as a requirement to become a Tree City USA member. Tree City USA is an award program designed to recognize the efforts put forth by communities properly managing their urban forests. Ramstein's celebration met the Tree City USA criteria with a tree planting ceremony and proclamation given by Col. Erwin F. Lessel III, 86th Airlift Wing commander, who oversaw the observance.

415th BSB holiday programs help soldiers, families in need

by Barbara Toner

415th Base Support Battalion

The 415th Base Support Battalion has three holiday programs to help young soldiers and their families celebrate the holidays.

The Thanks for Giving program turns a \$2,000 donation into \$10,000 worth of holiday dinner for junior enlisted soldiers referred by their unit first sergeants, said Walt Murren, United Service Organizations Kaiserslautern director.

The USO donates the \$2,000 and asks commissary vendors to match that amount in product, he said. The money is used to buy items vendors are not able to donate.

USO and the Kaiserslautern Sergeants Major Association sponsor the program, which donates a Thanksgiving dinner to 400 families.

"It's the community's way to tell junior enlisted families we appreciate them," said Murren.

Another program is the Holiday Toy Drive. This program provides toys to the children of junior enlisted soldiers at Christmas.

Last year 629 toys were distributed and this year's goal is to give two toys to each child in the program, said Beth Duncan, Army Community Services Outreach program manager.

The third program, Holiday Helping Hands, provides selected soldiers with commissary vouchers just in time for Christmas.

"The Holiday Helping Hands program gives soldiers and their families the opportunity to enjoy a complete holiday meal," said Marlena Ware, Helping Hands spokesperson.

The amount of the voucher depends on the number of people in the family, she said.

Community support makes these programs work, said 415th BSB Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Chavez.

"The bottom line is that the programs succeed because of soldiers and sponsors who support it. These are our programs, and once again I give thanks for the outstanding support to keep these programs strong for Army soldiers and families," he said.

Author brings deployment experiences, advice to KMC

by Staff Sgt. M. Davis
Kaiserslautern American

When it comes to deployments, preparation is the name of the game. That was the reason Carol Vandesteeg visited the KMC to help ensure military families are ahead of the game, while giving servicemembers more peace of mind.

Vandesteeg, author of "When Duty Calls," spoke to servicemembers and their families regarding deployment preparation and how to deal with possible stress.

"I want people to prepare in practical ways for family separation during deployments," she said. "My book talks about the same thing, but sometimes people can identify more with a person than a book."

Vandesteeg spoke to the KMC from personal experience. Her husband of 32 years, Chaplain (Col.) Ren Vandesteeg was deployed short notice in support of Operation Desert Storm.

"Two hours from the time he received the call, he was on a plane for the desert," Vandesteeg said. "After he left, I was emotionally in shock for about two weeks. I kept thinking it was a bad dream. It took some time to go through that emotional process and pick up and go on with life."

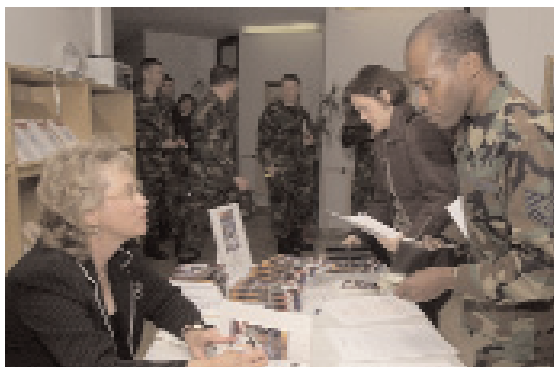
At the time, the Vandesteeg's youngest son, Dan, was a high school junior. He dealt with the pain of separation by turning inward, she said.

Years later, Dan gave his mother some advice to include in her book and seminars.

"Get teens to talk was his advice," she said. "If they keep their emotions buried, they'll never learn how to express them. It was a very difficult process for him to learn as an adult."

Vandesteeg advised teens to talk to parents, counselors, teachers or friends.

Additionally, families should be prepared for



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jocelyn Broussard

Carol Vandesteeg, author of "When Duty Calls," signs a copy of her book for Tech. Sgt. David Underwood, 786th Communications Squadron, after she spoke at a deployment seminar at Ramstein Northside Chapel Nov. 1.

short-notice deployments, she said.

"Know what bills need to be paid, where important documents like birth certificates, wills, etc., are kept," she said. "Also, know the military system and where to go if you need help."

On the home front, she said family members should try to stick to their daily routines. Continue with religious, social and family-oriented activities, because they can be a source of encouragement and strength, Vandesteeg said.

Children should also be involved in the communication process with the absent parent.

"Let them know writing letters, phone calls and e-mails aren't just for adults," she said.

If you know people whose spouses are deployed, you can "try to anticipate what their needs are," Vandesteeg said. "Give mothers a break by watching the children, invite them for a meal or bring a meal. Being there for them makes their lives easier."

Being prepared goes for single military people as well, said Staff Sgt. Bobby Adams, 86th

Maintenance Squadron munitions training instructor.

"Being single, the difficulties I have are how I can be contacted, who can pay my bills and who can watch my pets," Adams said.

While it may seem single people don't have much to worry about, Adams said he wants to know what to expect for a future family.

"I'm involved in a serious relationship, so I attended to see what to expect and deal with family separation – from a spouse's and child(ren)'s perspective. You never know what to expect in the military, and it's always best to have a plan."

Although Vandesteeg knows a lot about family separations, it's still an on going process because her husband is still serving the military.

"We're still going through this," said Chaplain Vandesteeg. "There is a need for this information, because there are so many deployments happening in our military today. Families need to be prepared to face many challenges."

Vandesteeg's advice:

- Know what unit and base support programs are available for family members left behind.
- Know what financial responsibilities must be kept up in the servicemember's absence (bills, insurance policies, etc.)
- Explain to children why the servicemember had to leave.
- Be receptive to children. Let them open up to you, a teacher or someone close to them.
- Ask someone to watch the children, so you can take a break.
- Prepare for reunions. Allow time for servicemembers readjust to family life again.

Making good choices

Servicemembers can make informed retirement decisions with FSC

by Rebecca Schrader
Ramstein Family Support Center

Planning for retirement is something people should do sooner rather than later.

If you are planning to retire from the military, entered active duty on or after Aug. 1, 1986, or are approaching your 15-year mark, you should be looking at what retirement plans are available.

You have two choices, the High Three Plan or the Career Status Bonus Redux Plan. The choice you make cannot be changed once you decide, and it has massive financial implications.

Therefore, it's vital to understand how both plans work to make the right decision. That's where the Ramstein Family Support Center

comes in. We can educate you on the details of each plan and give you pointers on which factors are most relevant.

The **High Three Plan** is mandatory for members who entered from Sept. 1, 1980 to July 31, 1986.

For this plan, the average of your highest 36 months of base pay is determined. Then, your multiplier is determined. You receive 2.5 percent of your base pay for each year of service. If you retire after 20 years, you receive 50 percent of your high three average. The maximum percentage of base pay you can receive is 75 percent, at 30 years of service — more than 30 years, the multiplier stops. The first year after retirement, you receive a cost of living adjustment in addition to your basic retirement pay.

The **Redux Plan** is available for individuals who entered the military after July 31, 1986. People who are at their 15-year mark will have to choose between both plans.

Your retirement pay is still based on the average of your high 36 months.

For this plan, the multiplier works differently. For the first 20 years of service, you receive 2 percent of your base pay. For each year thereafter, up to 30 years of service, the multiplier is 3.5 percent. With 20 years of service, you would receive 40 percent. The maximum remains 75 percent at 30 years and over.

The bigger difference is that you receive a smaller COLA. At 62, your multiplier is increased to whatever it would have been had you chosen the High Three Plan. In addition, there is

a one-year COLA catch-up so you would receive the same COLA as High Three retirees in the year you turn 62. After that, the gap in COLA begins again, while the multiplier catch up is permanent.

Another difference between the two plans is that the Redux Plan now offers a one time, \$30,000 bonus at the 15-year mark, called the Career Status Bonus.

The Ramstein Family Support Center offers a briefing on the retirement plan choice, as well as individual personal financial counseling to help you make sure that the choice you make is the best one for you.

The next briefing is 1 p.m. Wednesday. To sign up for the next briefing, call the Ramstein Family Support Center at 480-5100 or 06371-47-5100.

Explosion exercise evaluates procedures

by Sgt. Phillip Breedlove Jr.
Landstuhl Regional Medical
Center Public Affairs

Imagine an accidental explosion at a hospital emergency room. Suddenly 30 inpatients from the hospital and 20 other people injured in an explosion need to be evacuated from the place best equipped to handle this type of situation.

Americans and Germans worked together to handle such a scenario recently during a mass casualty exercise where Landstuhl Regional Medical Center was damaged and unable to handle a mass number of casualties. They had to evacuate the simulated casualties to a local German hospital for treatment.

Hospital spokeswoman Marie Shaw said the exercise was held to test the capabilities of local U.S. and German Medical Facilities and how they interact.

According to Shaw, the exercise was a success. "Everything ran smoothly. The German fire department and medical personnel arrived promptly and assisted LRMC staff in transporting the patients efficiently," Shaw said.

The exercise involved classifying and stabilizing the patients in the Landstuhl Emergency Room parking lot, then determining the best method of transporting the casualties. A UH-60 Blackhawk

helicopter and several German and American ambulances were used.

Shaw said the exercise took months of planning between German and U.S. agencies in the KMC. Some of the preparations included informing local communities about the emergency vehicles speeding down their roads that day.

The training was not only to test procedures in place by German and American facilities, but also to give hospital staff training for emergency situations.

Army Capt. Jennifer Davis, emergency room staff nurse said, "I learned what our role would be if there was a mass casualty and the German's Emergency Medical Services role and how those two come together."

LRMC is responsible for providing healthcare to all U.S. military beneficiaries in the KMC.

Additionally, they provide specialty care to beneficiaries throughout the European Theater, including servicemembers deployed to Afghanistan and the Middle East.

Tim Pohlemann, one of the German physicians at the University Clinics of Homburg who participated in the exercise, said the German hospital was happy to participate in the exercise.

"We are here to take care of all people, regardless of nationality," said Pohlemann.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Phillip Breedlove Jr.

American and German emergency medical personnel evaluate and treat a simulated casualty at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center recently during a joint mass casualty exercise. The joint exercise involved a simulated explosion at the LRMC Emergency Room, requiring the medical evacuation of injured people to a local German hospital.

KMC observes November celebrations, events

The KMC has a lot to celebrate in November – Military Family Month, Native American Heritage Month and Thanksgiving.

Below are some of the events offered within the KMC.

Military families are important – that's why President George Bush recently extended the Military Family Week celebration to a month-long observance.

There are several events in the KMC celebrat-

ing the Military Family Month.

The Ramstein Family Support Center celebrates Military Family Month by hosting an open house 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 21.

People can stop by the center to meet the FSC staff, enjoy refreshments and enter drawings for various prizes including U.S. Savings Bonds and a Christmas market trip.

"There are many new things happening at the Ramstein FSC," said Vince Halverson, Ramstein FSC flight chief. "We're excited to show KMC members our programs, progress and positive changes we've implemented."

People may enter the drawing at the open house or they can receive two free tickets for the drawing if they attend FSC classes up to Nov. 20, Halverson said.

November is also Native-American Heritage Month. To celebrate, the Ramstein Commissary is cooking up something good, said Gerri Young, Defense Commissary Agency public affairs.

"We will celebrate by providing traditional

Thanksgiving Day food for people to sample," she said. "This not only highlights our national history and ties with Native Americans, it also brings families into focus."

Five holiday food baskets will also be given away at the commissary.

KMC commissaries are providing food for local chapel-sponsored Thanksgiving dinners for single and deployed servicemembers.

The 29th Support Group also celebrates Native American Heritage Month by hosting an observance at 11:30 a.m. Nov. 22 at Armstrong's Club. Jim Poitras is the guest speaker. The observance is followed by a reception.

For more information, call Amenia Terry at 493-6103 or e-mail her at amenia.terry@29sg.21tsc.army.mil. Dress is business dress or duty uniform.

Members of the KMC can give thanks together at a Thanksgiving inter-faith service at 7 p.m. Nov. 26 at Ramstein Northside Chapel.

(Courtesy Ramstein Family Support Center)



Sembach fourth graders visit Kaiserslautern farmers' market



Courtesy photo

Sembach fourth graders prepare food bought during a Kaiserslautern farmers' market study trip Oct. 25.

by Suzanne Ott
Sembach Middle School

Vegetable soup, fruit salad, lemonade and bread – that's what Sembach Middle School fourth graders had for lunch Oct. 25 after a study trip to the Kaiserslautern farmers' market.

The purpose of the study trip was to experience German culture, said Paulette Stevens, a Sembach fourth grade teacher.

Each class was in charge of buy-

ing the ingredients for either soup, salad or bread, but this study trip was cross curricular," said Stevens. "The students had to make decisions, communicate in German, share, measure and divide ingredients and more."

Joshua Fry, a Sembach fourth grader said, "There were lots of choices at the market, and (the prices) weren't too expensive," he said. "I bought zucchini and red onions, and my mom got to come too."

He was glad his host nation

teacher, Bärbel Hehnke, taught them how to say various foods in German.

The students cleaned, cut and chopped all morning in preparation for a harvest luncheon, which was held the following day.

Stevens, also known as "Mama Stevens," loves to cook with her students and doesn't let anything go to waste.

"We made carrot-apple-banana bread, more soup, carrot-apple-raisin salad and a potato dish," Stevens said. "We had a great time."

KMC School District Calendar

Monday KMC schools	Veterans' Day, no school
Tuesday Vogelweh Elementary School	Checkers Club, 2:30 p.m., Bldg. 1032 Room 22
Kaiserslautern Middle School	Student Advisory Council meeting, 3:15 p.m., Bldg. 2004, Room C-1
Tuesday and Wednesday Ramstein Elementary School and Vogelweh Elementary School	Kindergarten conferences, no school for kindergarten students only
Wednesday Vogelweh Elementary School	Checkers Club, 2:30 p.m., Bldg. 1032 Room 22
Kaiserslautern Middle School	Parent Teacher Student Association meeting, 11 a.m., Bldg. 2004 Room C-1
Tuesday to Nov. 15 Kaiserslautern Elementary School and Landstuhl Elementary	Kindergarten conferences, no school for kindergarten students only
Thursday Landstuhl Elementary and Middle School	Student Advisory Council meeting 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., Parent Center
Sembach Middle School	Parent and teacher conferences no school for 4th and 5th grade students
Vogelweh Elementary School	SAC meeting, 3 p.m., media center
Ramstein Middle School	PTSA meeting, 3:15 p.m., information center
Thursday and Nov. 15 Landstuhl Elementary and Middle School and Vogelweh Elementary School	Parent and teacher conferences no school



Department of Defense Dependent Schools photo by Dan Nukala

Actin' up

Ramstein High School students rehearse for their production of *Bel Kaufman's "Up the Down Staircase."* The play takes place 7 p.m. Nov. 21 to 23 at RHS. Tickets are \$3. The Parent Teacher Student Association sponsors a barbecue sandwich and pasta salad dinner before the Nov. 22 performance. Dinner prices are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 10 and younger. A combination ticket and adult dinner is \$7; and \$5 for children.

Schools briefs

Conference change

KMC parent conferences take place at the end of the first quarter as advertised in the school handbooks. People should revert to the original schedules for parent conferences as stated in the parent handbook (i.e. Ramstein American Middle School parent conferences take place today). For more information, call local schools.

Tutors needed

Landstuhl Elementary and Middle School need tutors for the afternoon tutoring program.

Tutoring takes place 3:15 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in the media center.

Students in grades 2 through 8 need academic

help, especially in math and language arts.

Interested individuals can e-mail Bill Ingwerson at Bill_Ingwerson@eu.odedodea.edu or call 488-6523 after 3 p.m.

Coaches needed

Volunteers with wrestling experience are needed to assist with coaching the Kaiserslautern American High School wrestling team.

Interested individuals can e-mail Ken Robinson at ken_robinson@eu.odedodea.edu.

RAMS PTSA meeting

A Ramstein American Middle School Parent Teacher Student Association meeting takes place

3:45 p.m. Thursday in the RAMS Information Center. For more information, call 06371-49-3753.

Report card pickup

Parents of Ramstein High School students can pickup report cards in the RHS main lobby 8 to 11 a.m. and noon to 3 p.m. today.

Lunch monitor needed

The Sembach Elementary School seeks a lunch monitor from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. during school days.

Interested individuals can pickup applications at the school. For more information, call 497-7003 or 06302-67-7003.



U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Phillip Ulmer

McGruff trick-or-treats

McGruff the Crime Dog gives candy to children at Ramstein during the KMC Halloween celebration. McGruff and members of the 86th Security Forces Group patrolled the KMC as part of the Pumpkin Patrol. The patrol ensured a safe and accident-free Halloween for all the little ghosts and ghouls in the community.

Music performers entertain KMC

Country music singer Jamie O'Neal and Restless Heart, a country music group, perform at Ramstein Nov. 22 as the headliners for "Operation Seasons Greetings."

Operation Seasons Greetings is sponsored by the United Service Organizations and Armed Forces Entertainment in partnership with U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command and Air Force Reserve Recruiting Service.

"We are very excited to have entertainers like Jamie O'Neal and Restless Heart," said Mitch Marovitz, director of entertainment for the USO. "Our troops, and their families, sacrifice much so we can live in freedom. I'm so proud to have this opportunity to help bring the finest entertainment our nation has to offer to them, wherever they may be."

"I am proud to be able to entertain our servicemembers who make huge sacrifices to ensure that we here at home can enjoy the freedoms that we do," said John Dittrich, the drummer for Restless Heart.

Warming up the audiences for the seven-stop, 14-day tour are musicians from the Band of the Air Force Reserve and USAFE Band.

(Air Force Reserve Command News Service)

Program works to improve job performance

by Barbara Toner

415th Base Support Battalion

If you are experiencing a problem affecting your job performance, you now have a place to go for help.

The 415th Base Support Battalion now has an Employee Assistance Program to work with people with more than just alcohol and drug abuse issues.

For anything that affects job performance, such as divorce, finances or concern about elderly parents, the program is there for counseling and referral to other services.

"The whole goal is to increase production in the workplace, because once you take care of some

of these problems, then people can work more effectively," said Margie Winters-Harris, Employee Assistance Program coordinator.

This program was first developed as part of the Drug Free Workplace Act in 1986, said Winters-Harris.

As part of that program, it provides Test Designated Position employees with positive drug tests a place to go for treatment and referral. It also provides this for drug and alcohol problems.

Because more than drugs and alcohol abuse can cause employee performance to suffer, the program helps with almost anything affecting work, reliability and personal health.

The EAP is available to civilian employees and family members. Winters-Harris, a nationally certified counselor, staffs the office and the service is free.

You can enroll several ways: through supervisor referral, as a Test Designated Position employee with a positive drug test or by contacting the office directly.

The last point is the best, said Winters-Harris. That is, almost anything discussed with the counselor is confidential and will not appear in the employee's official personnel file.

"That's the selling point of the program, its confidentiality," said Winters-Harris. Once an employee contacts the program, he or she and

the counselor can decide what needs to be done – short-term counseling, long-term treatment or referral to another agency.

If the employee requires medical treatment and carries private insurance, the counselor works with the insurance company.

A supervisor may use this program to assist employees who are experiencing changes in job performance or behavior.

"It's my role at that time to sit down with the employee and find out what's going on," said Winters-Harris.

For more information on EAP and its benefits to your workforce or to receive assistance, call Winters-Harris at 486-1710.



Be responsible -- Don't drive drunk

Call Airmen Against Drunk Driving
at 489-2233 or 0631-536-2233

Keystone Club scores with drug awareness during Red Ribbon Week anti-drug tournament



Photo by Michelle Padgett

Jillian, 2, gives her father encouragement before the next game. The Drug Demand Reduction Committee sponsored a 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament in order to recognize the Red Ribbon anti-drug campaign. The Financial Wizards, from the 86th Comptroller Squadron won the trophy for their division, while "Da Kings" also hammered their way to the finals and took first place for their division.

by Melissa Harris

Vogelweh Teen Center director

The Keystone Club took drug awareness to the hoop recently during the Demand Reduction 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament. It was held at the Ramstein Southside Fitness Center in order to increase awareness of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention.

The Keystone Club is a Boys and Girls Club program designed to give teens the opportunity to get involved in their community and sponsor activities at the teen center.

KMC people came out to participate in and show their support for the Red Ribbon Week anti-drug awareness event.

Event organizer Michelle Padgett was approached by Keystone Club members about the possibility of becoming involved in the program, as part of their monthly community service project.

"The teens were interested in getting involved in something close to their hearts, and we were more than happy to have their assistance," said Padgett.

Using the divide and conquer strategy, some members took on the job of scorekeeping, while others prepared prizes for the tournament winners.

The most rewarding job of the evening came in the form of signing people up who pledged to be drug free, said Shaleshier Douglas club president.

"Volunteering was fun – and the best part of it all was getting to have a positive impact on others," said Douglas.

The Vogelweh Keystone Club meets 5 p.m. Thursdays in the Vogelweh Teen Center, Bldg. 1058. Membership is free.

For more information, call Melissa Harris at 489-7420 or 0631-536-7420.



Curtis Morgan practices his racquetball game at the Ramstein Northside Fitness Center. Morgan is competing in the KMC Racquetball Tournament scheduled Nov. 23 to 24.

U.S. Army photo by Mike Bowers

KMC hosts racquetball tourney

by Mike Bowers

415th Base Support Battalion

Hobby and recreation players are the focus of the KMC Invitation Racquetball Tournament Nov. 23 to 24 at the Kleber Kaserne Fitness Center.

Eight divisions accommodate beginning players in addition to an open-class for tournament veterans.

"We know there are lots of players who don't think they are good enough for tournaments," said Gerd Backhaus, 415th Base Support Battalion Sports and Fitness Branch fitness coordinator.

"However, the fun of tournaments is having players of all skill levels. The tournament is an opportunity to meet players of the same caliber and improve one's game."

Divisions are men's open, B, C, 30-plus, 40-plus, 45-plus, women's B and women's C/Novice.

Entrance fee is \$10 for the first division and \$5 for the second. The registration deadline is Nov. 20.

Participants need to be at the Kleber Gym at 8 a.m. to confirm participation and handle administrative details. Matches begin promptly at 9 a.m.

The tournament format is single elimination with a consolation round in each division.

Divisions that don't have at least six people register are either round-robin format or merge with the next closest skill or age level.

"We want a big turnout, especially of the KMC players," said Backhaus. "We want this to be a show of support for the sports. Besides, racquetball is a great sport to work on hand-eye coordination, agility and stamina."

To register or for details, e-mail Backhaus at gerd.backhaus@hq.21tsc.army.mil or call 486-8713.

Würzburg rids KAHS from football playoffs

by Mike Bowers

415th Base Support Battalion

The Kaiserslautern American High School football team's battle for the Division I championship ended in a lop-sided defeat.

The back-to-back defending champion Würzburg Wolves crushed the Red Raiders 46-6 Oct. 25 at Würzburg. The Wolves then cruised by Lakenheath, England, to claim their third straight title Saturday.

Kaiserslautern (3-4) played like a fourth-seed team, producing just 116 total yards compared to 449 for Würzburg (6-1).

The bulk of Kaiserslautern's yardage came on a 67-yard scamper by Wayne Peoples who ran out of gas at the Würzburg 2-yard line. A holding call, busted play followed by an interception, killed the team's best offensive scoring opportunity of the game.

"It was very frustrating to be so close and not able to punch it in," said Clinton Robinson, Kaiserslautern head coach whose team was trailing 24-6 at the time.

The Red Raiders only score came midway through the first quarter when Aaron Scott picked off a pass and returned it 28 yards for six.

Scott, hampered by a shoulder injury, was held to 22 yards on nine carries and one of three passes for seven yards.

Scott's substitute at quarterback, Peoples, finished with negative passing yards and carried the ball six times for 58 yards.

Maurice Brigham, in addition to having eight tackles, gained 48 yards on 11 carries.

Andrew Ross led the Red Raiders defense with 11 tackles while Quenton Long recorded eight.

"With our offense unable to sustain any drives, our defense was on the field a lot," he said.

Würzburg's all-Europe running back Roderick Haynes proved too much for Kaiserslautern's defense by rushing 30 times for 239 yards and four touchdowns, the longest a 66-yard dash.

Haynes is the real deal, said Robinson. "We hit him head on and attempted to wrap him up. However, he just seemed to bounce off tacklers and get his yards," he said.

Kaiserslautern kicker Michael King punted five times for a 27.6 average, but had one attempt blocked, leading to Würzburg's other touchdown.

Robinson said the season had a disappointing ending, but victories aren't measured in wins or losses.

"I don't measure success on wins and losses, but rather on how the boys became men and the men leaders," he said. "That was our motto all season, and all of our players have grown. They played hard and didn't quit."

Sports Briefs

Moonlight bowling

The Vogelweh Bowling Center has Moonlight Casino Bowling 5 p.m. Saturday.

The event is open to people 18 and older. For more information, call 489-6543.

Runners raise money

Eight members of the United Kingdom Support Unit here recently completed the Amsterdam Half Marathon for the U.K. Charities Committee.

The runners raised more than 1,000 EUR for donation to the Royal Air Force Association. The runners are: Robina Miller, Jenny Mills, Nick Allen, Mo Mohammed, John Hicks, Brian Loudon, Keith

Lantsbury, Dave Eccles.

For more information on donating to the association, call Loudon at 06371-40-1423.

Football Frenzy

The Ramstein Enlisted Club brings Football Frenzy to the KMC, 6 p.m. Sundays. People can win a trip to a Monday Night Football game, tickets to the Pro Bowl or the Super Bowl.

Catch all the action, plus enjoy free food 8 to 9 p.m. For details, call 480-5637.

Youth registration

86th Services Youth Sports registration for the 2003 basketball and cheerleading season ends

today. Registration is open to children age 5 to 15.

For more information, call your local sports office: Ramstein 480-6444, Vogelweh 489-6504 or Sembach 496-7687.

Head coach position

The Ramstein Air Force Women's Varsity Basketball Team seeks a head coach. Submit applications at the Vogelweh Fitness Center or call 489-7329.

Dart tournament

The Sembach Combined Club has a Turkey Shoot Dart Tournament 7 p.m. Mondays in November. All players hitting the "Turkey Bullseye" are eligible to

win a turkey. For more information, call 496-6625.

Winter registration

The 415th Base Support Battalion Child and Youth Services Division has winter sports registration 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Landstuhl School Age Services, Bldg. 3851.

Children 5 to 18, depending on the sport, can sign up for junior wrestling, basketball, cheerleading and jump rope activities. People should be ready to pay at registration. Also, bring current health assessment, proof of age, valid identification card and three emergency contacts to the registration. For details, call 489-6142.

Ramstein Roadrunners walk for fun, fitness

by Barbara Toner

415th Base Support Battalion

Walk through the woods on a beautiful afternoon – the sun warming your face and the smell of flowers and fresh pine resin in the air. Beer and bratwurst await you at the end of the walk.

Now add your family, dog and a couple hundred friends and you have an idea what it's like to belong to a volksmarching club.

Volksmarches are organized, non-competitive walks through German forests, fields and villages. Clubs have formed which attract Germans and Americans looking for opportunities to interact with one another.

The Ramstein Roadrunners, one of those clubs, caters to Americans who want to experience Germany in a uniquely German way. It provides information and advice to new volksmarchers and gives the more seasoned walkers a social outlet as well as a good workout.

"We are a walking club that promotes the volksmarching sport and tries to foster closer German-American relations," said Stephen Clay, Roadrunners' president.

Clay likes to paraphrase a quote he once heard to describe the Roadrunners.

"We are a social club with a walking problem," he said.

Volksmarching itself began as an extension

of a "Volkslauf," or people's run, in Bobingen, Germany. Realizing not everyone wants to, or can, run competitively, the idea of non-competitive walking, in which almost anyone can participate, took off.

In the early 1970s volksmarching became popular with Americans living in Germany, and as a result several international clubs formed. Ramstein Roadrunners was established in 1973.

During the high point of the American military presence in Germany, Roadrunners membership grew to between 1,000 and 1,200 people. Currently it counts about 200 members of all ages, of which more than 75 percent are Americans.

Club members attend many local volksmarches and take their flag with them. It provides the club with a presence and a tool to attract more members, said Clay, to "broadcast our presence without annoying anyone."

The advantages of belonging to a volksmarching group, rather than walking it alone, are numerous, said Clay.



The first advantage is the camaraderie found among people who enjoy a similar pastime. Whether walking or taking part in the weekly Tuesday meetings at the clubhouse, there are always people with similar interests to talk to.

New members can learn the ropes of volksmarching through reading the updated newcomers guide as well as talking to the seasoned veterans. The clubhouse

is also a good central location for obtaining information about upcoming volksmarches and receiving medals that must be mailed.

If volunteering is your passion, the Roadrunners sponsor two walks a year – one in May and the Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving. The May walk requires more than 100 volunteers to organize and staff the 5, 10, 20 and 42-kilometer walks as well as the 25-kilometer bike ride.

The club also sponsors trips to volksmarches in Germany, Switzerland and France. The next Roadrunners trip is a volksmarch Dec. 7 to Metz.

For more information about the club, call Clay at 06372-995895.

Running 10 miles

Landstuhl leads USAREUR success at Army Ten-miler

by Sgt. Phillip Breedlove

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center

With a cannon blast at the Pentagon Oct. 20, 16 soldiers from U.S. Army Europe began pounding their feet on the streets of the nation's capital.

Ten miles later, the eight who comprised the women's team held a combined run-time total of 4:26:53 – topping all teams in the women's team category. The team won the Army Ten-Miler by eight minutes.

The top runner on the team was Landstuhl Regional Medical Center's Jacqueline Chen who completed the race in 1:01:53.

"We really have a good group of runners on this team ... I'm impressed with everyone's ability," said Chen.

Eight men filled running shoes to form Team USAREUR Men, and finished sixth in the men's team category with a combined team run time of 3:43.6.

The top runner for the men's team was LRMC's Shannon Swords with a time of 54:27.

The men and women made it to the nation's largest 10-mile event by first qualifying in a 10-mile race at Grafenwoehr in July.

Since then, devoted individual training prepped each soldier for this annual event.

More than 18,400 runners com-

peted this year on a 10-mile route that allowed runners to maneuver down the middle of the street in the heart of Washington, D.C.

Team USAREUR women and times are: Jacqueline Chen, 1:01:53; Jessica Jacobs, 1:06:21; Meghan Conroy, 1:08:31; Couretta Sirmans, 1:10:08; Margaret Schuck, 1:11:01; Jackie Nance, 1:11:04; Sharkey Janice, 1:12:06 and Christine Moser-Fink, 1:15:04.

Team USAREUR men and times are: Shannon Swords, 54:27; James Seefeldt, 55:23; Rodney Boatwright, 56:33; Michael Buley, 56:43; Douglas Pratt, 57:30; Page Karsteta, 58:29; Benjamin Horner, 1:00:17 and Kirk Madgic, 1:00:22.



U.S. Army photo by Michael Tolzmann

U.S. Army Europe women cheer as they are announced winners of the women's team category at the 18th annual Army Ten-Miler Oct. 20.

Get into shape

The Ramstein Health and Wellness Center
offers personalized fitness programs.
For more information, call 480-4292.



Children honor missionary on St. Martin's Day

by Petra Lessoing

Kaiserslautern American

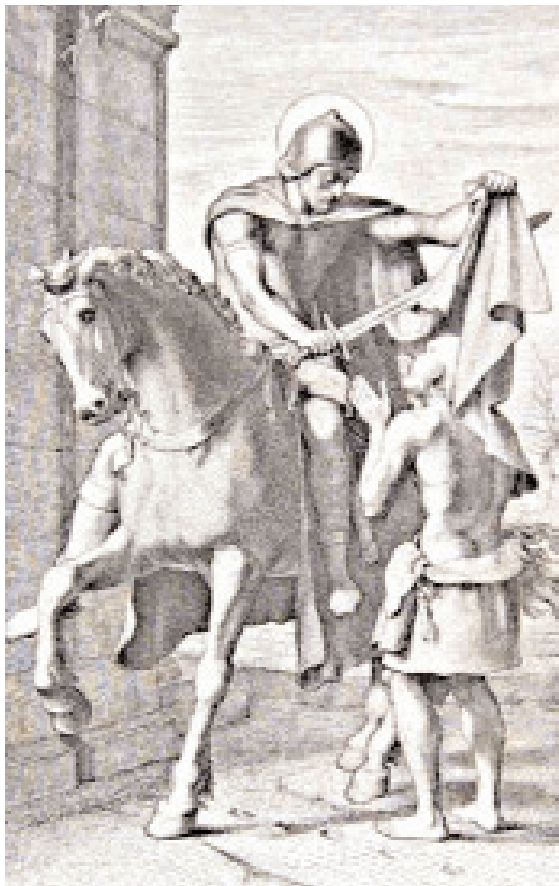
Monday is St. Martin's Day. Martin, who was a missionary in France and Bishop of Tours is honored.

Monday night or even this weekend, little children walk in lantern processions through Kaiserslautern and villages in the KMC. They make the lanterns in kindergarten or school and learn Martin songs. Usually the walk starts at a church and goes to a public place. A man on horseback dressed like a Roman soldier, Saint Martin, accompanies the children. The saint was known as friend of the children and patron of the poor.

Martin was born in the year 316 or 317 as the son of a Roman civil servant. At age 15, he joined the Emperor's cavalry. One cold winter day, he was riding through the country when a shivering beggar came his way asking for an alm. Since Martin had neither food nor money, he cut his robe in half with his sword and gave a piece to the freezing man.

Supposedly, Jesus appeared in Martin's dream the following night. He told Martin it was him he gave the half of his coat to. This event changed the soldier's life. He left the army, got baptized and became a student of Bishop Hilarius of Poitiers. In 356, after Martin's teacher was banned and he failed to convert his father and others to the teachings of Hilarius, he left for an island near Genua, where he lived as an hermit.

In 360, Martin gave up his solitary life to join Hilarius again who returned to Poitiers. In 361, he founded the first Gallic monastery in Liguge. In 371, he was elected for bishop by the clergy and the people from Tours. In 375, he estab-



lished Marmoutier, a monastery and a school for bishops. Martin was still trying to evangelize pagans. On Nov. 8, 397 during a pastoral trip to Candes in France, he died. Thousands went to his funeral Nov. 11. Years later, a basilica with the St. Martin Abbey was built on top of Martin's gravesite. King Chlodwig elected Martin as patron of the Franconian people.

The tradition of the lanterns goes back to former times, when people lit candles to honor a saint and when lanterns were put up everywhere in town when a bishop came for a visit.

Today, after the children's procession, his act of giving his coat to the beggar gets performed at local market squares or other common places, and a bonfire is lit. The custom of lighting a bonfire represents the beginning of festivities. In former times, most of the work on the fields had been completed and now it was time to celebrate, drink and eat. Traditionally, a fat goose and sweet bread were served.

One legend says that St. Martin died after eating a whole goose at a single meal. Another legend says that Martin was hiding to avoid his election for Bishop of Tours, but chattering geese revealed his hiding place. The tradition of eating a "Martin's goose" at this time of year has been kept. Many restaurants in the KMC add Martin's goose with dumplings and red cabbage to their menu. Even on Christmas, Germans like to serve goose.

In Kaiserslautern, the Martin's procession starts at 6 p.m. Monday near St. Martin's Church at the beginning of Steinstrasse and ends in front of the Rathaus, where St. Martin will divide his coat and the bonfire is lit.

In Ramstein village, festivities start with a short ceremony at 6 p.m. Monday in the Catholic church. Then the girls and boys from Montessori kindergarten lead the lantern procession with other little children and St. Martin on his horse through town. Back at church, the St. Martin's play is presented and the bonfire is lit. Pretzels, tea and glühwein are available to buy. Proceeds go to the missionary aid of St. Nikolaus Church.

In Landstuhl city, St. Martin's parade starts at 6 p.m. Sunday at Heilig-Geist-Kirche and ends at the Altenzentrum (meeting place for senior citizens) with the play, the fire and the sale of Martin's pretzels, tea and glühwein.

AT YOUR LEISURE

Babysitter training

The Kaiserslautern American Red Cross offers a babysitting class 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 16 at Kapaun Air Station, Bldg 2783. The class fee is \$20, including book. For more information, call 483-8722 or 0631-411-8722.

Youth dance

Sembach Youth Programs holds a dance for grades 4 and 5 from 7 to 10 p.m. today. For more information, call 496-7687.

Torch Club meeting

The 415th Base Support Battalion Landstuhl Teen Center has its Torch Club meeting 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday in Bldg. 3819. The Torch Club is a youth leadership

program for middle school youth that encourages volunteering, community service, education and healthy leisure activities.

For more information, call 486-8658 or 06371-86-8658.

Cooking class

The Vogelweh Community Center holds a Thai cooking class 6 p.m. Wednesday. Register no later than Saturday. For more information, call 489-7626.

German class

The village and kindergarten of Wallhalben offer a German conversation class, "Mama lernt Deutsch" (But Papas are welcome).

An intermediate class starts in January. If there is enough interest, the teacher is willing to start a

beginners class in the morning, afternoon or evenings.

For more information e-mail the teacher at Haltpeter@t-online.de

Quilters give away

The Rheinland-Pfalz Quilt Guild has a give away Monday at the Ramstein and Vogelweh base exchanges. Members of the guild are on hand at the BXs this weekend with details. Three quilts will be given away. All quilts have a red, white and blue patriotic theme.

The first and second prize quilts are throw size and are drawn 11 a.m. Monday at Ramstein BX. The grand prize quilt is a king size bed quilt and is drawn 2 p.m. at the Vogelweh BX. Winners need not to be present.

Spouses meet

The Ramstein Officers' Spouses Club meets for an evening function to include dinner and entertainment 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

For reservations:

If your last name begins with A to M, call Landa Strunk at 06375-994638 or e-mail mlstrunk@t-online.de.

If your last name begins with N to Z, call Kelli Bailey at 06374-801856 or e-mail eurobailey@yahoo.com.

Reservation deadline is Sunday.

Childcare is available with reservation only. Contact Julie Dodge by e-mail julesdodge@hotmail.com

For more information on this and other events, call the Ramstein Officers' Spouses Club office at 06371-44838.

AIR FORCE AND ARMY CHAPEL SCHEDULE

Protestant Services

• **Daenner Chapel (483-6083, available only Sundays)**
Contemporary Protestant, 10 a.m. Sunday.
Seventh-day Adventist, 11 a.m.
Saturday and religious education 10 a.m.
• **Kapaun Chapel (489-6859)**
Liturgical (Episcopal Rite), 9 a.m. Sunday.
• **Pulaski Chapel (489-8264)**
Apostolic, 11 a.m. Sunday.
• **Landstuhl Chapel (486-8399)**
Protestant, 11 a.m. Sunday.
• **Miesau Chapel**
Non-denominational Christian, 10:45 a.m. Sunday.
• **Ramstein North Chapel (480-2499)**
General Protestant, 11 a.m. Sunday.
• **Ramstein South Chapel (480-5753)**
Liturgical, 9 a.m. Sunday.
Sunday Morning Alive, 11 a.m. Sunday.
Evangelical, 1 p.m. Sunday.
• **Sembach Chapel (496-7577)**
General Protestant, 11:30 a.m. Sunday.

• **Vogelweh Chapel (489-6859)**

General Protestant, 8:30 a.m. and Gospel Service, 11:30 a.m. Sunday
• **Landstuhl Chapel (486-8141)**
Protestant service, 11 a.m. Sunday.

Protestant Education

Classes are available for all ages at Sembach, Vogelweh and Ramstein.
For details, call 480-2499.

Catholic Services

• **Ramstein North Chapel (480-2499)**
Sunday Mass, 9 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Daily Mass, noon Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
Communion Service, noon Tuesday
• **Vogelweh Chapel (489-6859)**
Confessions 5 p.m. Saturday and Vigil Mass, 6 p.m.
Mass, 10 a.m. Sunday
• **Sembach Chapel (496-7577)**
Mass 9 a.m. Sunday.
• **Landstuhl Chapel (486-8141)**
Sunday Mass, 9 a.m.
Daily Mass at noon.

Spanish Mass every third Saturday at 5 p.m.

Catholic Education

For more information on CCD, call 480-2497 or Landstuhl representative at 06371-914245. Landstuhl RCIA, 06306-356.

Islamic Services

Jumah service, 1:30 p.m. Fridays
Taleem (Islamic study group), 11 a.m. Sundays, Bldg. 2880 on Pulaski Barracks.
For details, call Nedal Mefleh at 0175-5542159 or 480-5061.

Jewish Religious Services

Kabblat Shabbat, 7 p.m. Friday at Ramstein North Chapel (480-2499).

Orthodox Christian Services

Orthodox Divine Liturgy, 10:30 a.m. Sunday in Kapaun Chapel (489-6859).

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

3:30 p.m. the second and fourth Sunday in Ramstein South Chapel.

BRIEF

Theater play for children

The Pfalztheater in Kaiserslautern offers a special performance for American children of the play "Urmel aus dem Eis," Urmel from the Ice at 10:30 a.m. Nov. 27.

The story is based on the children's book by Max Kruse. It begins on a lonely island, where Professor Habakuk Tibatong teaches animals to speak. He is a specialist in Urmel dinosaur research and convinced that this special dinosaur is still alive. One day, an iceberg drifts toward the island with a huge egg of unknown origin.

The German play will be presented with English comments by the little Urmel.

For more information and reservations for students, teachers and parents, call 0631-3675207 or fax to 0631-3675235.

WAS IST LOS?

by Petra Lessing

Kaiserslautern American

Pfalztheater, Kaiserslautern —

"Urmel aus dem Eis," a play for children, 10:30 a.m. today, Tuesday, Wednesday, Nov. 19, 20 and 22. Play with English comments, 10:30 a.m. Nov. 27. "Die Blume von Hawaii," an operetta by Paul Abraham, 7:30 p.m. today, Nov. 16 and 23. "Der graue Engel," a monologue for two, 8 p.m. today. "Peer Gynt," a dramatic poem by Henrik Ibsen, 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Nov. 20. "Der Zarewitsch," an operetta by Franz Lehár, 7:30 p.m. Sunday. "Salome," a musical drama by Richard Strauss, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Nov. 22.

For tickets, call 0631-3675-209 (11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m.) The ticket office in the Pfalztheater is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

Kammgarn Kaiserslautern —

Donnie Muncro (Runrig) & Band with folk rock, 8 p.m. today. Tickets cost 19 EUR. Classics of soul with Midnight Movers, 8:30 p.m. Mondays. Tickets cost 13 EUR. Laith-Al-Deen with soul and pop, 8 p.m. Tuesday. Tickets cost 20 EUR. Meike Koester & Band on "Soap for dirty girls" tour, 8:30 p.m. Thursday. Tickets cost 8 EUR. Karan Casey & Friends on Irish Folk Tour, 8:30 p.m. Nov. 15. Tickets cost 9 EUR. For details, check www.kammgarn.de.

Fruchthalle Kaiserslautern —

German-American and International Women's Club sponsors a benefit concert with Rennquintett performing Bach to

blues, 8 p.m. today. Tickets cost 14 EUR.

SWR Orchestra Kaiserslautern presents "The Sound of Richard Rodgers," 5 p.m. Sunday.

The Original USA Gospel Singers with gospel and spiritual, 8 p.m. Thursday and Nov. 15. For tickets, call 01803-776842. For details, check www.proticket.de.

SWR Symphony Orchestra Baden-Baden and Feiburg and the Tölzer Knabenchor (boys' choir) present a symphony concert with works by Mozart, Schubert and Bach, 8 p.m. Nov. 21 and 22. For details and reservations, call the cultural office at 0631-365-4411.

Stadthalle Landstuhl —

Peggy Seeger, known as one of the most authoritative voices in American and English folk, performs 8 p.m. Sunday. Admission is 10 EUR for adults and 8 EUR for students. "My Marilyn," a ballet about Marilyn Monroe's life, 8 p.m. Nov. 26. Tickets cost 15.50 to 19.50 EUR. For reservations, call 06371-92340.

Haus des Bürgers, Ramstein-Miesenbach —

The Golden Gospel Singers, 8 p.m. Nov. 16. Tickets cost 17 to 23 EUR. The Broadway Dance Company and Dance Empire Dublin present "Night of Dance" 8 p.m. Nov. 29. Tickets cost 17 to 23 EUR. For reservations and babysitter service, call 06371-592-220.

Miscellaneous:

• **Ramstein-Miesenbach, Haus des Bürgers,** Christmas creative market featuring dolls, glass, wood, jewelry, silk, teddy bears, pottery, 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech Sgt. Maria Taylor

Memorial concert

Dr. Werner Kremp, director of the Atlantic Academy Kaiserslautern, talks to Col. John A. Tappan, 86th Airlift Wing vice commander, about a concert in memory of Sept. 11 victims 5 p.m. Sunday at the Stiftskirche in Kaiserslautern. "The German Requiem" by Johannes Brahms with American baritone Max Wittges is part of the festival ARTlantic Days and a sign of mutual understanding of the German-American relationship in the KMC. The Atlantic Academy donated 30 free tickets to be given to servicemembers. Tickets are available at the door for 10 EUR.

• **Otterberg, Stadthalle,** hobby artists' market features crafts, candles, hats, tiffany, Christmas cards, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

• **St. Martin (north of Edenkoben), St. Martinus wine fest,** today through Monday

• **Weyher (southwest of Edenkoben), arts and wine,** today through Sunday

• **Dahn, Martini market,** Sunday
• **Quirnbach (west of Glan-Münchweiler, A62), horse market,** Wednesday

• **Cochem/Mosel, new wine fest,** today through Sunday

Flea Markets:

• **Kaiserslautern, Messeplatz fair-**

grounds, Saturday and Wednesday

• **Kaiserslautern, real store,** Merkurstasse, Saturday

• **Kaiserslautern, real store** (across from Daenner Kaserne), Sunday

• **Landstuhl, Kaufland,** Saturday and Sunday

• **Ramstein, flea market hall,** Flurstrasse 4, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday

• **Saarbrücken, Franz-Josef-Röder-Strasse** (near Schloss), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday

• **Bad Dürkheim, Saline** (salt-works, Saturday and Sunday

• **Metz, France, Parc des Expositions,** Sunday



U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Phillip Ulmer

Having fun

Emily, 8, takes a video game for a spin Monday at the new Kid Zone. The Kid Zone, located at Pulaski Barracks, is open from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday. The Kid Zone offers fun house type activities, food, video games and is also available for birthday parties. To make reservations, call 0631-350-2514. The grand opening is scheduled for Nov. 14 at noon.

BRIEFS

Fair calendar

The Garden Fair company in Kaiserslautern offers a calendar 2003 showing 12 colorful motifs from the recent garden fair. The calendar is available for 8 EUR at the garden office, Schoenstrasse 9 in Kaiserslautern.

Season tickets for next year are available as of Nov. 26. Those purchasing a season ticket and the calendar, receive a 2 EUR discount on the calendar. Of each calendar sold, 50 cents is donated to the initiative "Old - Poor - Alone" to help senior citizens.

DOD show

A free Department of Defense Native American Dance Show takes place at the Landstuhl Community Combined Club, Bldg. 3780 at noon Nov. 26. For reservations or more information, call 486-7244

AT THE MOVIES

(Editor's Note: Schedules and synopses are provided by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. Movie times and dates are subject to change by the individual theaters. Please check with the theater to ensure accuracy.)

TODAY

Galaxy Theater, Vogelweh (0631-536-6176) — "Ghost Ship" (R) 7 and 10 p.m.
Kleber Theater, Kleber Kaserne (0631-48352) — "Transporter" (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Tiger Theater, Sembach Annex (06302-677624) — "XXX" (PG-13) 7 p.m.
 "Signs" (PG-13) 10 p.m.
Hercules Theater, Ramstein AB (06371-47-5550) — "White Oleander" (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Nightingale Theater, Ramstein AB (06371-47-6147) — "Abandon" (PG-13) 7 and 10 p.m.

SATURDAY

Galaxy Theater — "Country Bears" (G) 3 p.m.
 "Ghost Ship" (R) 7 and 10 p.m.
Kleber Theater — "XXX" (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Tiger Theater — "Signs" (PG-13) 7 p.m.
 "XXX" (PG-13) 10 p.m.
Hercules Theater — "Trans-

porter" (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Nightingale Theater — "Like Me" (PG-13) 3 p.m.
 "Abandon" (PG-13) 7 and 10 p.m.

SUNDAY

Galaxy Theater — "Lilo & Stitch" (PG) 4 p.m.
 "Ghost Ship" (R) 7 p.m.
Kleber Theater — Closed
Tiger Theater — "Serving Sara" (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Hercules Theater — "Simone" (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Nightingale Theater — "Master Of Disguise" (PG) 4 p.m.
 "Abandon" (PG-13) 7 p.m.

MONDAY

Galaxy Theater — "Ghost Ship" (R) 7 p.m.
Kleber Theater — Closed
Tiger Theater — "Blue Crush" (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Hercules Theater — Closed
Nightingale Theater — "Abandon" (PG-13) 7 p.m.

TUESDAY

Galaxy Theater — "Serving Sara" (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Kleber Theater — Closed
Tiger Theater — "Ghost Ship" (R) 7 p.m.
Hercules Theater — Closed
Nightingale Theater — "Signs" (PG-13) 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Galaxy Theater — "Serving Sara" (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Kleber Theater — Closed
Tiger Theater — "Ghost Ship" (R) 7 p.m.
Hercules Theater — Closed
Nightingale Theater — "XXX" (PG-13) 7 p.m.

THURSDAY

Galaxy Theater — "XXX" (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Kleber Theater — "Abandon" (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Tiger Theater — "Ghost Ship" (R) 7 p.m.
Hercules Theater — "XXX" (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Nightingale Theater — "Serving Sara" (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Nov. 15

Galaxy Theater — "Santa Clause 2" (G) 7 p.m.
 "XXX" (PG-13) 10 p.m.
Kleber Theater — "Signs" (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Tiger Theater — "Serving Sara" (PG-13) 7 p.m.
 "Fear Dot Com" (R) 10 p.m.
Hercules Theater — "Abandon" (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Nightingale Theater — "Ghost Ship" (R) 7 and 10 p.m.

NOW SHOWING

Santa Clause 2 — The new Santa has gotten used to the job and is well-loved across the world. However, a new clause is brought to his attention: The Mrs. Clause. Santa must find a bride, so he hits the singles scene to try and find a mate. Starring Tim Allen and Elizabeth Mitchell.

Abandon — College student Catherine Burke must deal with the two year old disappearance of her boyfriend, Embry Langan, when detective Wade Handler begins an investigation.

Catherine is haunted by memories of Embry and is torn as Handler uncovers new evidence that may link his disappearance to that of another student from the college campus.

Starring Charlie Hunnam and Katie Holmes.